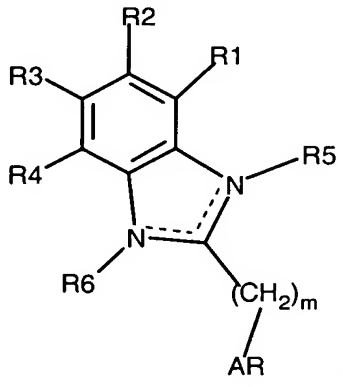
Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A compound represented by the following Formula (I):

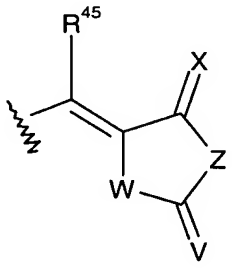


(I)

wherein:

the B ring has one double bond where indicated by the broken lines, provided that R^5 is absent when the nitrogen attached thereto has a double bond and provided that R^6 is absent when the nitrogen attached thereto has a double bond;

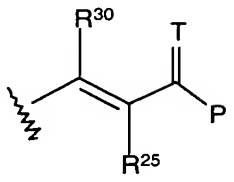
R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are each independently selected from hydrogen, $-(CH_2)_pOR^{10}$, $-C(O)OR^{10}$, formyl, nitro, cyano, halogen, aryl, substituted aryl, substituted alkyl, $-S(O)_nR^{10}$, cycloalkyl, $-NR^{11}R^{12}$, protected –OH, $-CONR^{11}R^{12}$, phosphonic acid, sulfonic acid, phosphinic acid, $-SO_2NR^{11}R^{12}$, a heterocyclic methylene substituent as represented by Formula (III),



(III),

and

a substituent as represented by Formula (VII),



(VII)

where,
p is 0-6,
n is 0-2,
W and Z are each independently selected from C, O, S and NR^{16}, where R^{16} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl,
V and X are each independently selected from O, S and NR^{16}, where R^{16} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl,
R^{10} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl,
R^{11} and R^{12} are each independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and aryl,
or R^{11} and R^{12} taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached represent a 5 to 6 member saturated ring containing up to one other heteroatom selected from oxygen and nitrogen,
T is absent or selected from O, S and NR^{16}, where R^{16} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl,
P is selected from OR^{10}, SR^{10}, $NR^{11}R^{12}$, and R^{10}, where R^{10} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl,
R^{25} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl,
R^{30} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl, and
R^{45} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl;

R^5 is absent when the nitrogen attached thereto has a double bond or selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl;

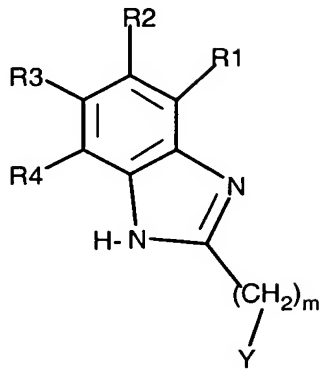
R^6 is absent when the nitrogen attached thereto has a double bond or selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-

C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl;

m is 0-6; and

AR is a cyclic or polycyclic aromatic ring containing from 3 to 16 carbon atoms, optionally containing one or more heteroatoms, provided that when the number of carbon atoms is 3 the aromatic ring contains at least two heteroatoms and when the number of carbon atoms is 4 the aromatic ring contains at least one heteroatom, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of: alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxy, hydroxy, alkoxy, acyloxy, $-NR^{13}R^{14}$, N-acylamino, N-sulfonylamino, nitro, cyano, halogen, $-C(O)OR^{10}$, $-C(O)NR^{13}R^{14}$, $-S(O)_2NR^{13}R^{14}$, $-S(O)_nR^{10}$, protected -OH, and alkyl substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of: alkoxy, acyloxy, aryl, substituted aryl, amino, N-acylamino, oxo, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, $-C(O)OR^{10}$, $-S(O)_2NR^{13}R^{14}$, $-S(O)_nR^{10}$, aryloxy, nitro, cyano, halogen, and protected –OH,
where
n is 0 to 2;
R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl, and
R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted cycloalkyl, substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl, alkyl or alkyl substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of: alkoxy, acyloxy, aryloxy, $-NR^{10}R^{10}$, N-acylamino, oxo, hydroxy, $-C(O)OR^{10}$, $-S(O)_nR^{10}$, $-C(O)NR^{11}R^{10}$, $-S(O)_2NR^{10}R^{10}$, nitro, cyano, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, halogen, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl, and protected –OH,
where n and R^{10} are as described above;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, solvates and esters thereof.

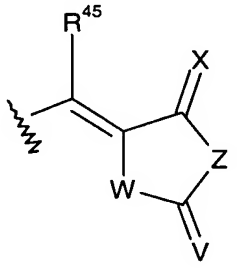
2. (Original) A compound of claim 1 represented by the following Formula (II):



(II)

wherein:

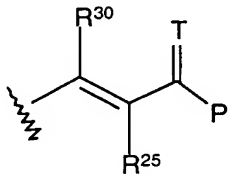
R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are each independently selected from hydrogen, $-(CH_2)_pOR^{10}$, $-C(O)OR^{10}$, formyl, nitro, cyano, halogen, aryl, substituted aryl, substituted alkyl, $-S(O)_nR^{10}$, cycloalkyl, $-NR^{11}R^{12}$, protected –OH, $-CONR^{11}R^{12}$, phosphonic acid, sulfonic acid, phosphinic acid, $-SO_2NR^{11}R^{12}$, a heterocyclic methylene substituent as represented by Formula (III),



(III),

and

a substituent as represented by Formula (VII),



(VII)

where,

p is 0-6,

n is 0-2,

W and Z are each independently selected from C, O, S and NR^{16}, where R^{16} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl,

V and X are each independently selected from O, S and NR^{16}, where R^{16} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl,
R^{10} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl,
R^{11} and R^{12} are each independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and aryl,
or R^{11} and R^{12} taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached represent a 5 to 6 member saturated ring containing up to one other heteroatom selected from oxygen and nitrogen,
T is absent or selected from O, S and NR^{16}, where R^{16} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl,
P is selected from OR^{10}, SR^{10}, $NR^{11}R^{12}$, and R^{10}, where R^{10} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl,
R^{25} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl,
R^{30} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl, and
R^{45} is selected from: hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted cycloalkyl and substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl;

m is 0-6; and

Y is a cyclic or polycyclic aromatic ring containing from 4 to 14 carbon atoms, optionally containing from one to three heteroatoms, and optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of: alkyl, substituted alkyl, C_1-C_{12}aryl, substituted cycloalkyl, substituted C_1-C_{12}aryl, hydroxy, aryloxy, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, nitro, cyano, halogen and protected –OH;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, solvates and esters thereof.

3. (Original) A compound of claim 1 selected from:

5-{2-[6-(3,4-Dichloro-phenyl)-pyridin-2-yl]-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethylene}-2-thioxo-thiozolidin-4-one;
5-{2-[6-(3,4-Dimethyl-phenyl)-pyridin-2-yl]-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethylene}-2-thioxo-thiozolidin-4-one;
(E)-3-{2-[6-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenyl)-pyridin-2-yl]-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl}-2-methyl-acrylic acid;

5-{2-[5-(3,4-Dimethyl-phenyl)-thiophen-2-yl]-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethylene}-2-thioxo-thiozolidin-4-one;

5-{2-[4-(3,4-Dimethyl-phenyl)-thiophen-2-yl]-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethylene}-2-thioxo-thiozolidin-4-one;
5-{2-[5-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenyl)-furan-2-yl]-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethylene}-2-thioxo-thiozolidin-4-one;
5-[2-(4'-*tert*-Butyl-biphenyl-3yl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethylene]-2-thioxo-thiozolidin-4-one; and
5-[2-(4'-*tert*-Butyl-2-hydroxy-biphenyl-3yl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethylene]-2-thioxo-thiozolidin-4-one;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, solvates and esters thereof.

4. (Original) A method of treating of thrombocytopenia in a mammal, including a human, in need thereof which comprises administering to such mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Formula (I), as described in claim 1.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the mammal is a human.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the compound is selected from the compounds listed in Claim 3.

7. (Original) A method of enhancing platelet production in a mammal, including a human, in need thereof which comprises administering to such mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the mammal is a human.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the compound is selected from the compounds listed in Claim 3.

10. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~for use in enhancing platelet production which comprises~~ comprising a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 11-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A method of agonizing the TPO receptor in a subject which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound of Formula (I), as described in claim 1.

15. (Original) A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition containing a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent and an effective amount of a compound of the Formula (I) as described in claim 1 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, solvates and esters thereof which process comprises bringing the compound of the Formula (I) into association with the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

16. (Original) A method of Claim 4 further comprising co-administering a therapeutically effective amount of an agent selected from the group consisting of: a colony stimulating factor, cytokine, chemokine, interleukin or cytokine receptor agonist or antagonists, soluble receptors, receptor agonists or antagonist antibodies, or small molecules or peptides that act by the same mechanisms one or more of said agents.

Claims 17-26 (Cancelled)

27. (Original) An in vitro or ex vivo method for enhancing the survival and/or proliferation of stem cells, bone marrow cells, cord-blood cells, peripheral blood cells or other types of cells expressing the TPO receptor in culture which comprises culturing said cell in a medium containing an effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

28. (Original) A method of claim 27 further comprising co-administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a colony stimulating factor, cytokine, chemokine, interleukin or cytokine receptor agonist.

Claims 29-43 (Cancelled)

44. (Original) An intermediate used in the preparation of compounds of Claim 1 selected from:

N-[2-Nitro-4-(4-oxo-2-thioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-phenyl]-acetamide;
5-(4-Amino-3-nitro-benzylidene)-2-thioxo-thiazolidin-4-one;
5-(3,4-Diamino-benzylidene)-2-thioxo-thiazolidin-4-one;
(E)-3-(4-Acetylamino-3-nitro-phenyl)-2-methyl-acrylic acid ethyl ester;
(E)-3-(4-Amino-3-nitro-phenyl)-2-methyl-acrylic acid ethyl ester;
(E)-3-(3,4-Diamino-phenyl)-2-methyl-acrylic acid ethyl ester;
6-(3,4-Dimethyl-phenyl)-pyridine-2-carbaldehyde;
6-(3,4-Dichloro-phenyl)-pyridine-2-carbaldehyde;
6-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenyl)-pyridine-2-carbaldehyde;
4'-*tert*-Butyl-2-methoxy-biphenyl-3-carbaldehyde; and
4'-*tert*-Butyl-2-hydroxy-biphenyl-3-carbaldehyde.